

CARC Monthly Meeting Minutes for 2 April 2018

Introductions and Opening: Club President Earl Dean (W4ESD) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Meeting Minutes: March 2018 meeting minutes are posted on the club web site.

<http://w4cae.com/club-minutes/>

Financial Report: As of 31 March 2018, the account balance was \$2188.19 and 134 members. Jim Donelan (W4KNI) proposed increasing annual dues amount by \$1 when paying via PayPal to cover PayPal fees. In-person dues payment would remain the same. This will be voted on at the May 2018 meeting.

CARC Net Report: Gary Anderson (K4HGA) is temporarily resuming the position of Net Manager. If anyone would like a chance to shine, this would be an excellent opportunity. He discussed a change to the Wednesday night net to an "open subject" format after check-ins. Also requested the club possibly generate a list of potential net subjects for net controllers.

Meeting Announcements:

- Earl reminded everyone the 2018 Summer Field Day is the 4th full weekend in June (23/24 June). Since most places will be booked-up in advance, if anyone has ideas on possible locations, please contact the Board.
- Earl put forward the idea of a "Scavenger Hunt" via ham radio. Clues would be provided over specific frequencies and as you solve one clue, would get the next clue frequency to continue.
- Dan Cunningham (K9DBC) passed around a card for members to sign to Tina Sanders for Silent Key Tim Sanders. Tim Sanders' radio equipment was donated to the club for sale.
- W4CAE SwapFest will be on 21 April in the old Kmart parking lot (Two Notch Rd and Parklane). All are welcome and no fees. This will be an all outside event.
- Gary Anderson demonstrated example club logo polo shirts (~\$30) and yellow vests (~\$20).
- Gary Anderson gave an update on the 19 May Tour de Cure event. This is the club's largest annual event. We will need 35+ operators to support the event. Operators will meet at the Carriage House (downtown Columbia) at 0700, race start time will be 0800. This will be an all-day event, ending mid-afternoon.
- Gary Anderson gave an update on the 7 April Peachtree Rock 5K event. Operators will meet at 0800 and race start time will be 0900. The race should finish around 1000. For those that have not worked an event before, this is a good way to see how they function and should be an easy event.
- The club "Go Bag" competition on 7 May will be judge by Live PD. Competitors should keep in mind the "bag" can be up to 35lbs and drag-able. If including a weapon, substitute two canned goods to simulate weight and volume. DO NOT put actual weapons in the Go-bag! Should include supplies for a three day trek. Actual scenario will be provided at the competition and contestants will explain included items during judging.

Presentation: Marc Tarplee (N4UFP), ARRL South Carolina Section Manager, spoke on "VHF Weak Signal Operation". Most operators are familiar with FM and DMR modes (repeater-based) which require "strong signal" operation. VHF Weak Signal Operation involves 6m/2m/70cm and most commonly use SSB, CW, FT8, and MSK144. These type include EME (moon bounce), tropo scatter, aurora backscatter and several others. This type of operation predominantly uses Yagi antennas.

Something to make you think:

Do you know what your "Grid Square" is? See "Related Links" below for web references.

Columbia Amateur Radio Club

Meetings are the first Monday of the month at 7 PM at the ETV Building near downtown Columbia. Eat Before We Meet: Carolina Ale House on Lady St. in the Vista. We gather between 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
<http://w4cae.com/>

Everyone is reminded they may contribute to the club newsletter, Feed Line, by contacting Tim Polito (KN4TIM) or Pete Emmel (K4LLE).

Related Links:

VHF Weak Signal Operation

www.pingjockey.net

www.on4kst.com/index.php

Nature Conservancy – Peachtree Rock 5K Run/Walk (7 Apr)

<https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/southcarolina/placesweprotect/peachtree-rock-heritage-preserve.xml>

<https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/southcarolina/events/earthday-5k-runwalk.xml>

MS Walk (28 Apr)

http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Walk/NCTWalkEvents?pg=entry&fr_id=29781

Tour De Cure (19 May)

http://main.diabetes.org/site/TR/TourdeCure/TourAdmin?fr_id=12310&pg=entry

Do you know your "Grid Square"?

<http://www.arrl.org/international-grid-chase-2018>

<http://www.arrl.org/grid-squares>

http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php = use to find your grid square identifier